

**Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme  
Review April 2021 to March 2022  
& Priorities for 2022/23**



## Introduction

In the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan (CNAP) the council made a commitment that “The plan will be annually reviewed to enable new issues, challenges, opportunities and solutions to be considered, and projects added over the life time of the document”

This review sets what has been achieved over the past 12 months, in the second year of delivery of the plan. It includes a further up-date on the carbon emission data and a number of case studies on the projects that we are undertaking to reduce carbon emissions in the priority areas for transport, housing and energy and natural environment.

The development of our CNAP was strongly influenced by the inaugural Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency, Cllr Lynda Murphy, who sadly passed away in December 2021. Her drive and passion in reducing carbon emissions was unbounded.

Throughout the year, the council has been providing up-dates and progress reports on its work and that of its partners in reducing carbon emission. In September 2021, we delivered our first Carbon Neutrality Open Forum, with two more scheduled in 2022. The Housing and Environment Policy Committee has received regular papers including ‘A Portrait of Winchester’ and the Council has launched its 10-year Green Economic Delivery Strategy. The Carbon Neutrality Board and Carbon Neutrality Delivery Group meet monthly.

Delivery of the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan has continued to be affected by the COVID19 pandemic, in particular related to contract prices and timescales.

## Challenges from COVID-19 measures

External	Internal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduced investment – concentrate on business critical</li><li>• Unknown level and duration of impacts yet to come</li><li>• Disrupted supply chains / available resources</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diverted resources</li><li>• Financial pressures and budget constraints</li><li>• Reduced staffing levels</li></ul>



As with any challenge, there can be benefits and opportunities. Positive impacts on sustainability arise from the changing ways of working and reduced travel as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions.

To maximise the opportunity to generate a green recovery and create a positive legacy by retaining these beneficial changes, the council has developed and published its Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS). This sets out the direction for the next 10 years to balance economic growth with a transition to net zero carbon within the district.

A major piece of work in 2022/23 will be the creation of a Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality for the district which will support and influence the delivery of interventions and projects with the aim of achieving the net zero carbon target.

**What we have achieved – April 2021 to March 2022**

During 2021/22 we have continued to work towards delivering the CNAP priorities and, in particular, those priority actions identified for the year in last year's review. These are detailed below:

<b>Transport</b>	
<b>Baseline emissions</b>	<b>Latest emissions</b>
Council emissions (2017/18) 1500 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	1315 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2021) 
District emissions (2016/17) - (ex. Motorways) 287,400 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	276,100 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019) 
<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
Work with Hampshire County Council on a Winchester District Bus Breakthrough plan – to include moving to zero carbon buses – and supports the Hampshire Bus Service Improvement Plan.	A bid was submitted by HCC for Bus Service Improvement grant but was unsuccessful. Other sources of funding will now be considered. The bus industry is in a recovery phase following Covid.
Ensure employee commuting remains at reduced carbon emission levels.	New flexible working strategy encourages employees to work from

	<p>home part of the time, which will help to reduce commuting emissions.</p> <p>Carbon footprint data for 2021/22 is not yet available, but the 2022 staff travel survey results indicate that cars remain the predominant method of commuting (74% of respondents). 25% of staff live more than 30 miles from their place of work and only 5% of staff work wholly from home.</p>
Pilot emissions-based car parking charges.	Cabinet has agreed that a consultation will be undertaken over the summer. The results will then be considered and it will be determined if an emission based car parking tariff will then be introduced in central Winchester.
Support expansion of zero emission delivery services.	<p>Zedify is operating a last mile delivery service using electric vehicles and bikes c160/170 deliveries per week.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing</p>

	with HCC and Solent Transport about a micro-consolidation scheme.
Work with Hampshire County Council to commission a Local Cycling and Walking plan (LCWIP) for the district.	<p>Following public consultation on the Winchester Movement Strategy, funding has been secured from HCC towards the development of a districtwide LCWIP which will be developed during 2022.</p> <p>A cycle parking and security plan is being developed for the district and extra cycle provision has recently been added to the WSLP and park and ride sites.</p>

Other notable progress related to transport in 2021/22 includes:

- Completion of the Barfield phase 2 park and ride car park

### CASE STUDY: Barfield Phase 2 Park and Ride

#### Summary:

The former Vaultex site on Barfield Close has been transformed into a decked car park for 287 cars as an extension to our Park and Ride service. The structure includes 800 square metres of roof-mounted solar panels, generating enough power to charge the 16 Electric Vehicle charging points as well as the lighting, lifts, CCTV and other electrical systems in the building. Further EV charge points can be added as demand grows, underscoring the council's commitment to encouraging low-carbon modes of transport. It was funded by a £5.65 grant from the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership (EM3 LEP). The scheme includes extensive planting and the provision of live green walls.

Aims: To provide a new electric vehicle charging hub for Winchester, helping decarbonise the city and provide clean energy.

To reduce city centre traffic and improve air quality whilst supporting economic growth.

#### Outcomes:

800m<sup>2</sup> of solar panels



16 electric vehicle charging points will shortly be installed, running off the solar energy.

To achieve our Biodiversity aims, the site features:

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Review April 2021 to March 2022 and Action Plan 2022/23

- 400 square metres of green wall;
- 115 new trees (12 specimens and 103 woodland whips) on the side of the car park facing the National Park;
- 92 species of plants and more than 4,000 bulbs planted nearby.





Commercial ENERGY	
Baseline emissions	Latest emissions
Council emissions (2017/18) 1,780 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	867 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2021)* 
District emissions (2016/17) 192,300 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	159,200 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019) 
Priority Action	2021-2022
Develop a proposal for energy saving measures at the Guildhall and West Wing.	Feasibility study on energy saving measures completed for the Guildhall by Arup Consulting. However, the temporary change of use of the Guildhall to a court service meant that this work couldn't be progressed.  Other energy saving work to the corporate estate was progressed, with £257,000 grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund secured for energy saving works to City Offices and a study undertaken to review heating of the building.
Work with the largest businesses in the district to	Installation by the council of solar panels at two large businesses – Marwell Zoo and

reduce energy use.	Biffa - enabling them to source renewable energy. The generated power is sold to the businesses at a discounted market rate, reducing costs to the businesses and generating income for the council. A predicted reduction in carbon emissions of a combined 30t CO <sub>2</sub> e is predicted. The schemes were part-funded by the EM3 LEP and could provide a model for other businesses to follow.  The City Centre Partnership of key institutions has been meeting as the Climate Coalition to discuss approaches to reducing emissions and becoming carbon neutral; sharing best practice and seeking ways to support each through this change.
Create circular economy initiatives that uses waste as resources.	All collected garden waste material is recycled into soil conditioner called Pro-Grow, used by many local gardeners and growers.  Participated in the Voice of Authority Webinar in the

	<p>Circular Economy, as one of three panel speakers on the topic of "The challenges and opportunities of development in a circular economy". The event was watched by 70 on-line attendees.</p>
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Other notable progress related to commercial energy in 2021/22 includes:


- Retrofit of the council's City Offices with energy saving measures including window replacement, 50% funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme.
- Completion of solar panel installation on the roofs of local businesses Marwell Zoo and BIFFA, with the green electricity generated sold to them by the council.
- Launch of a low carbon support service for SMEs within the district, calculating carbon footprints and helping access funding to reduce them – part funded by LoCASE (Low Carbon Across the South East).

Domestic ENERGY	
Baseline emissions	Latest emissions
Council emissions (2017/18) 420 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	605 tCO <sub>2</sub> (2021)** 
District emissions (2016/17) 193,000 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	189,800 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019) 
Priority Action	2021-2022
Identify measures to reduce emissions at Chesil Lodge.	Chesil Lodge has seen high gas usage due to the failure of the CHP unit. Both short and longer term options are being appraised to resolve the ongoing problems and, subject to the necessary plant being available, the intention is to effect a permanent fix to or renewal of the CHP unit during 2022/23.
Spend £1.5m on retro-fitting housing stock.	No monies were spent during 21/22 due to resourcing issues. A Retrofit Co-ordinator is now in post and a retrofit team has been established. The retrofit works to house and bungalow voids are due to

	start in the summer of 2022. Subject to satisfactory completion of the trials properties, works should then gather pace.
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Other notable progress related to domestic energy in 2021/22 includes:

- Development of low carbon housing options for incorporation into the new Local Plan including a presentation to Leader's Board.
- Support for low carbon support retrofit services delivered in partnership with other stakeholders, such as Solar Together and Super Homes projects for householders living in the District.

Natural Environment (LULUCF*)	
Baseline emissions	Latest emissions
Council emissions	
District (2017) -48.1 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>	-49.3 tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> (2019) 
Priority Action	2021-2022
Agree the council's mitigation / off setting policy.	A detailed approach to offsetting for both the council and wider district was considered by the Health & Environment Policy Committee in January 2022. Key principles were agreed and this will form the basis of a formal policy that will be taken to the council's Cabinet for approval later in 2022.
Develop a viable business case for investment in energy generation on council land.	Council land holdings were reviewed to identify land of a scale significant enough to accommodate a viable energy generation scheme.  An initial feasibility study was undertaken at the most likely site and further work will be



	undertaken during 2022 to demonstrate whether a scheme is viable.
Deliver 80% of the 73 actions from the BAP.	<p>Target of completing 80% of actions in Biodiversity Action Plan was achieved.</p> <p>Tree planting target of 100 trees annually has been exceeded with 1,366 trees planted to date, including 398 during 2021/22.</p> <p>2021 has seen the highest number of slow worms recorded at West Hill Cemetery since surveys began 4 years ago. It has also seen sighting of an otter at Bishops Waltham pond.</p>

\* Land use, land use change and forestry

Other notable progress related to natural environment in 2021/22 includes:

- Adoption of Topfield open space in Kings Worthy.

### **CASE STUDY: Topfield Open Space - Habitat creation and management**

#### Summary

The Topfield Open Space is being adopted by Winchester City Council as part of the 35 affordable housing scheme on Burnet lane Kings Worthy. As part of the planning conditions, the open space must be improved for public access and then managed in perpetuity with biodiversity as the main driver, keeping this as a natural green space. This work aligns directly with the CNAP Proposed Priority Actions, to address the council's carbon emissions by 2024 and contribute to reducing emissions district-wide by 2030, by the creation of green open spaces and green corridors that capture carbon and align with the principles emerging for the council's offsetting strategy.;

#### Aims

1. Liaise with the community groups and residents to establish an ongoing relationship.
2. Improve access & links.
3. Maintain ecological areas and manage accordingly
  - a. Reptile habitat
  - b. Dormice habitat
  - c. Wildflower-rich grassland

#### Outcomes

1. Protect and enhance the site and ensure long term benefits of green space provision for the community.

2. Upgrade access links and reduce the need for car journeys within Kings Worthy, for example to school.
3. Manage habitats of interest and engage with the community in this management:
  - a. Establish baseline ecological condition of habitats.
  - b. Monitor species
  - c. Adapt management to fit needs and provide climate resilience.



**SECTION 1: Council – Meeting the 2024 carbon neutrality targets**

**Overall Trend**

The Council has been calculating its carbon footprint since 2009/10 and took the baseline year for its Carbon Neutrality Action Plan to be 2017/18. The trend has generally been a positive one, although total emissions increased in 2019/20 due to opening of Chesil Lodge and the inclusion of employee commuting within scope.

Winchester City Council's purchasing arrangement for renewable electricity commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Since then, in accordance with the GHG Protocol<sup>1</sup>, we have been reporting both our location-based and market-based figures.

**Location based** – reflects the emissions from electricity supplied from the national grid at the point of supply.

**Market based** – reflects the emissions from the electricity sources that the consumer has chosen e.g. renewable electricity or gas.

**In 2020/21, our total location-based emissions were 3,227 tCO<sub>2</sub>e and the total market-based emissions were 2,810 tCO<sub>2</sub> e. This represents a decrease of 23% (location based) and 36% (market based) from the previous year.**

<sup>1</sup> <https://ghgprotocol.org/>

	20017/18**	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Total emissions (Location based) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	4186.84	4005.20	4383.00	3226.85
Total emissions (Market based) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)*	-	-	4276.71	2665.27
Reduction on baseline year (Location based) (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)	-	181.64	-196.16	959.99
Reduction on baseline year (Location based) (%)	-	4%	-5%	23%

\*Market based calculation takes into account purchase of renewable energy

\*\* CNAP baseline year

In the CNAP we identified a need for 20% annual reduction on WCC emissions, so in 2020/21 we were on target to achieve this, but further reductions will be more challenging.

**Based on 2020/21 emission levels, there needs to be a reduction of 1,075 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/yr (location based) or 888 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year (market based ie taking into account renewable electricity) between April 2021 to March 2024 to meet the CNAP council target. The priority actions at the end of this report set out how we intend to achieve this.**

**Key message:**

Direction of travel is positive, but emissions reduction needs to maintain pace to meet our target of being carbon neutral by 2024.

### Source of Council emissions

The graph below shows the overall contribution from each council sector since 2009 (location based ie not including renewable energy purchase). The contribution of site electricity has reduced in both location and market based calucations since the baseline year, meaning electricity and gas use, depot lorry and Park and Ride buses are now the most significant elements.

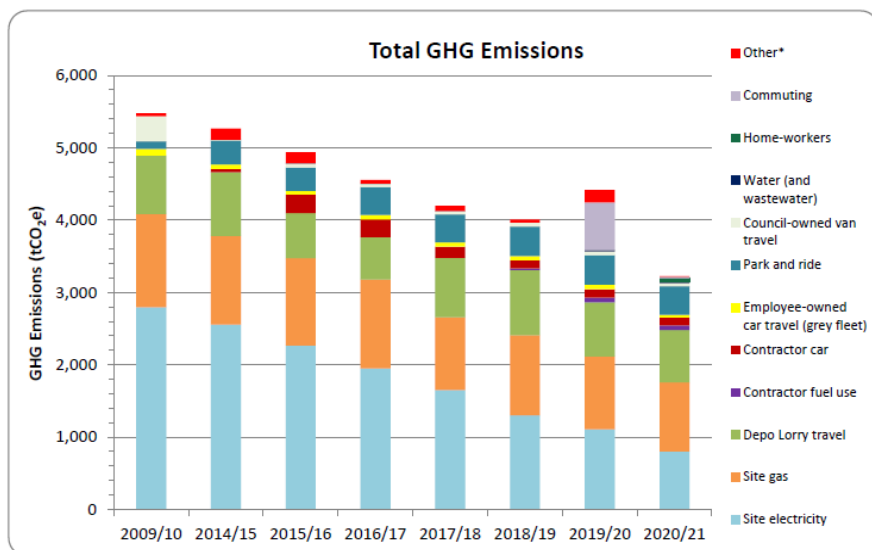


Figure 7: Detailed emissions comparison for the various aspects of Winchester City Council's location-based emissions

\*Other includes emissions from kerosene, other fuel use, refrigerants, waste and travel from council owned car, motorbike, taxi, rail and flights.

There is a good pipeline of energy efficiency projects, such as the replacement of windows in City Offices (funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund) but a clear path to decarbonise gas heating and contractor transport emissions needs to be developed. It is also likely that employee commuting emissions will increase in 2022 from the figures below, as employees return to office working.

As we are unlikely to fully eliminate all our carbon emissions, we will be developing the Offsetting Strategy, presented to HEP Committee in March 2022.

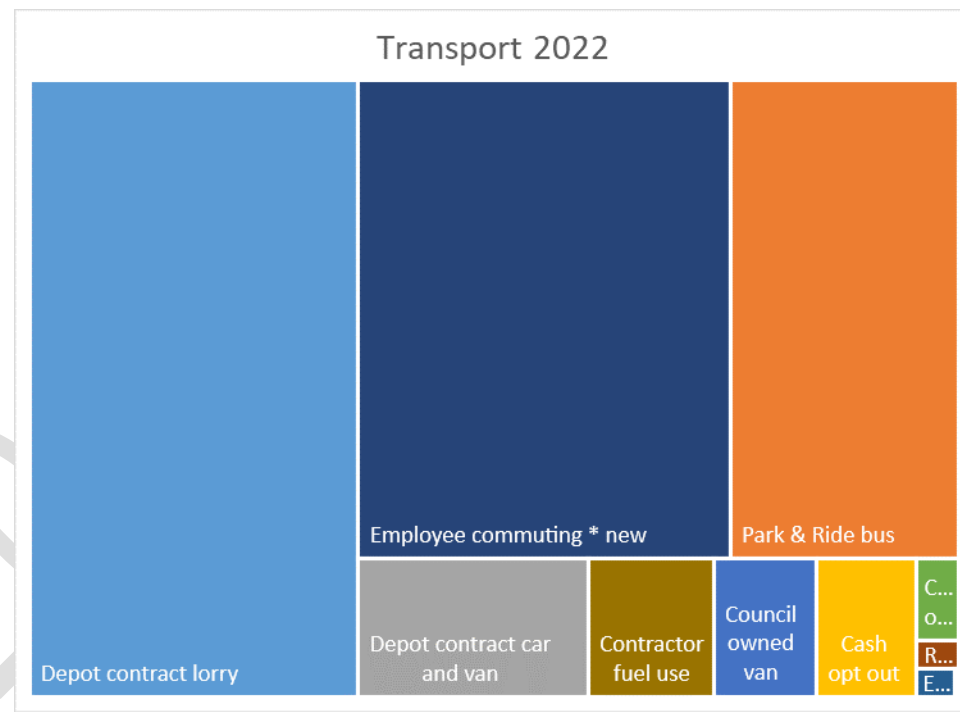
	2020/21 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (Location based)	2020/21 tCO <sub>2</sub> e (market based)	% Share of total emissions (market)
All emissions			
Transport	1315	1315	47%
Domestic Housing	605	593	21%
Commercial Energy	1156	867	31%
Employee commuting	19.2	19.2	1%
Refrigerants	0	0	0%
Water & waste	15.5	15.5	1%
Other	0	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3227</b>	<b>2810</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Council Transport

Transport accounted for 37% of the council's emissions when we published the Action Plan. Reductions in other areas mean it now stands at 47% with the inclusion of employee commuting in 2019/20.

	Carbon emissions tonnes CO <sub>2</sub>		
	2017/18	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Transport</b>			
Depot contract lorry	824.39	<b>747.1</b>	<b>723.09</b>
Park & Ride bus	386.42	<b>404.04</b>	<b>396.68</b>
Depot contract car and van	152.93	<b>117.06</b>	<b>107.16</b>
cash opt out**	45.67	<b>54.65</b>	-
Council owned van	43.4	<b>52.41</b>	<b>42.90</b>
Council owed car	22.65	<b>12.86</b>	<b>6.52</b>
Employee car travel	10.66	<b>4.01</b>	<b>38.45</b>
Rail	6.57	<b>4.28</b>	<b>0.01</b>
Flights	0.86	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0</b>
contractor fuel use		<b>63.51</b>	<b>62.97</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1493.55</b>	<b>1456.38</b>	<b>1314.80</b>
Employee commuting * new		<b>656.55</b>	<b>19.16</b>

\*\* Scheme discontinued – from 2021 included in Employee Car Travel



#### Key message:

Action needs to focus on reducing emissions from contractor buses, lorries, cars and vans, so the council has allocated £250k in 2022/23 to trial electric vehicles.

The council contract for park & ride buses is due for renewal in 2024. This provides an opportunity to build decarbonisation into the next contract.

Employee commuting emissions are expected to rise again in 2022/23. Flexible working policies and a hybrid working approach may keep this below pre-pandemic levels.

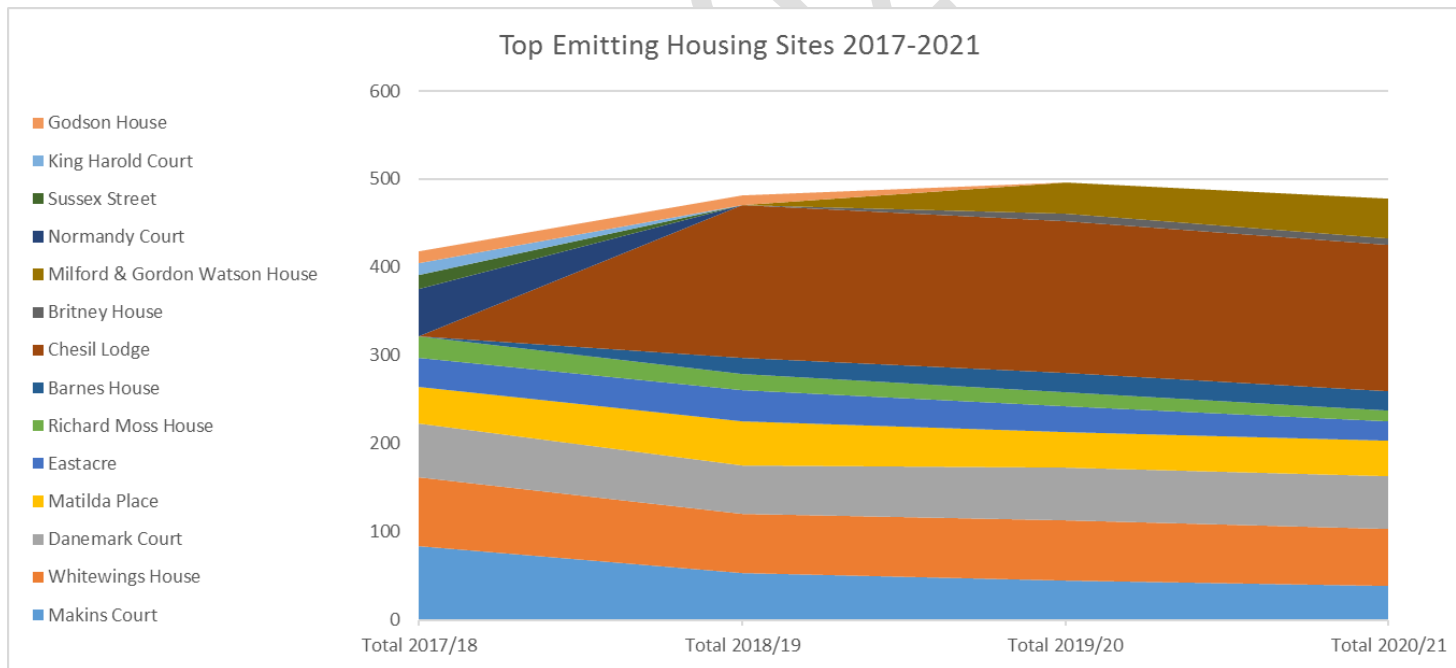
Council Housing (Domestic) Energy

The top 10 (domestic) housing sites accounted for 79% (478 CO<sub>2</sub>e) of all housing site emissions, almost identical to the previous year. For all council housing, the emissions in 2020/21 were 606 t CO<sub>2</sub>e, accounting for 21% of the council's emissions.

**Key message:**

Chesil Lodge is now the most significant contributor, accounting for a third of housing emissions, so a feasibility study is due to be completed in 2022 on options to reduce gas consumption at this site.

Milford and Gordon Watson House saw an (54%) increase in gas use due to temporary accommodation for the homeless at this site.



### Council Commercial Energy

The total commercial energy emissions in 2020/21 were 867 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (market based) compared to 1,776 tCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2017/18. This is a reduction of 909 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (51%) since the CNAP baseline year. As the overall footprint reduced, council commercial energy now represents 31% (market based) of all council emissions. Ten sites account for 79% (817 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) of commercial energy emissions.

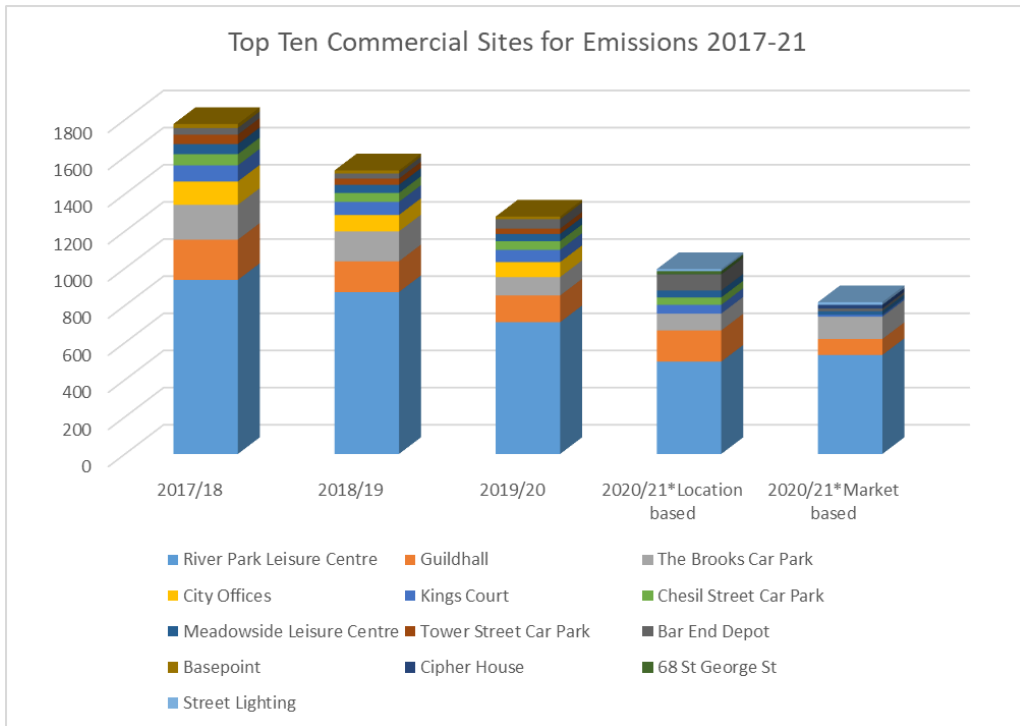
**Key Message:**

Positive direction of travel for energy, but focus still required on reducing/replacing gas usage.

Work with contractors is required to reduce their emissions, in particular at both leisure centres.

The closure of the Guildhall and West Wing during 2020/21 was reflected in lower emissions (-36%).

Substantial increase in solar PV capacity should be reflected in reduced electricity usage in 2021/22.



### **Council-owned electricity generation**

Since declaring a Climate Emergency, the council has funded the installation of 6 solar PV arrays on its buildings and those of large energy consuming businesses in our district. These either generate electricity for our own premises or, in the case of our two commercial arrays, are sold onto that company at a preferential rate to generate an income stream for the council.

Together, these arrays now supply clean renewable energy to our district and a monitoring programme is being rolled out to accurately meter this contribution for our next carbon footprint. In 2022-23, the council has budgeted to install a solar PV array on Meadowside Leisure Centre and will progress a feasibility study into a larger solar farm in the Winchester district.

**SECTION 2: Winchester District 2030 carbon neutrally target.**

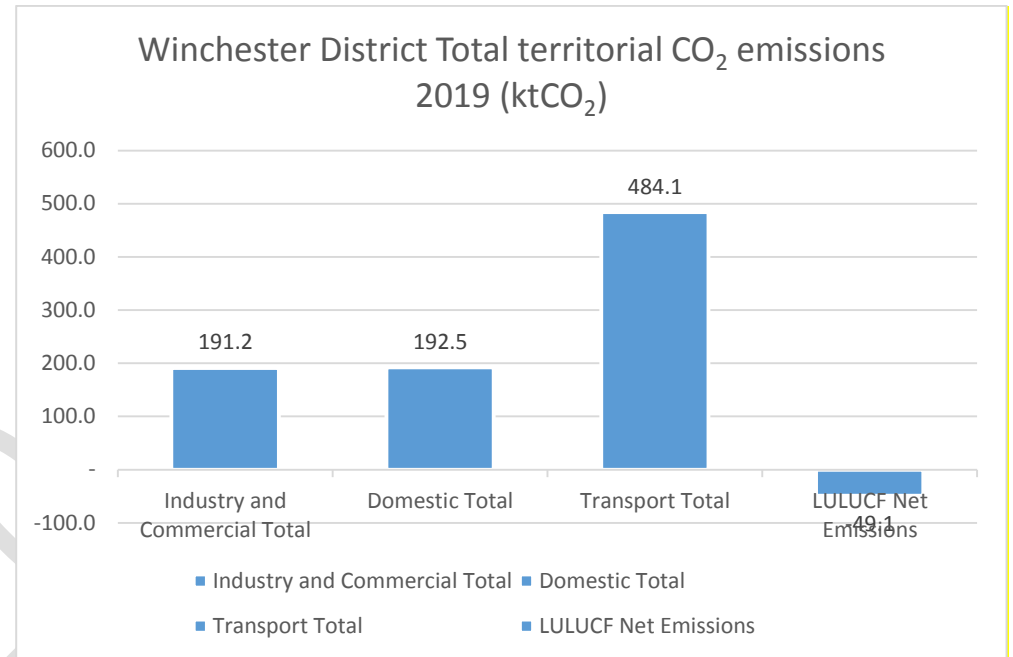
**District Carbon Emissions**

WinACC's 2021 annual report on GHG emissions in the Winchester district contains the data for 2019, the latest year for which data is available. All data therefore comes from before the pandemic.

Total district CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2019 were 603 ktCO<sub>2</sub> (excluding motorways), a reduction of around 4% on our baseline year of 2017. WinACC believes this was due wholly to the reduction in emissions from electricity generation.

In the CNAP we identified a need for 10% annual reduction on district emissions, so in 2018/19 we were behind target to achieve this, but this data predates the launch of the CNAP.

WinACC's report concludes that all sectors within the district must substantially reduce carbon emissions and highlights the most polluting areas as road vehicles, heating homes and commercial electricity consumption. To this end, the council has recently commissioned a decarbonisation roadmap for the district to focus on key actions to achieve our 2030 target.



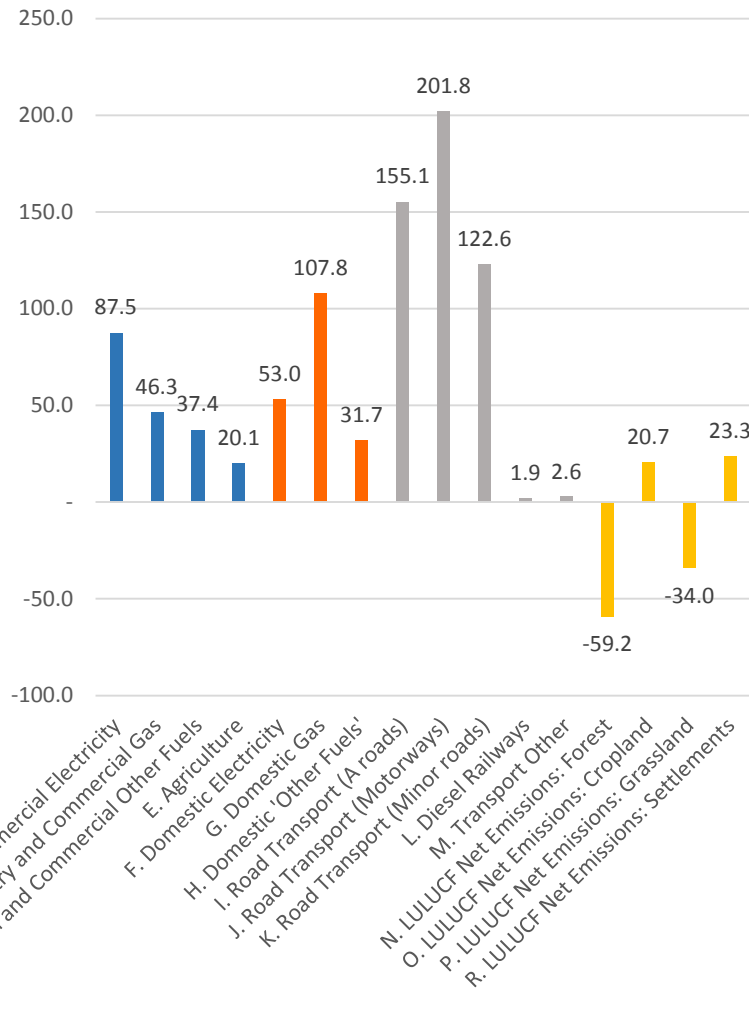
Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics: 2005 to 2019, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

**Key message:**

Direction of travel was positive in 2018/19, but emissions reduction needs to increase pace considerably to meet our ambition of being a carbon neutral by 2030.



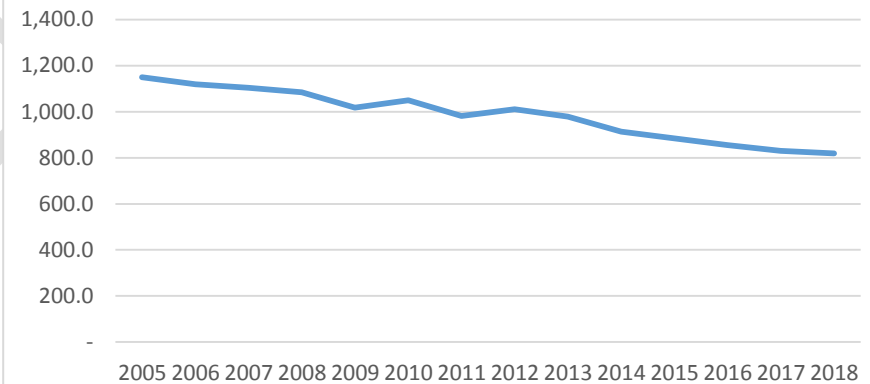
Winchester Local Authority territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2019 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)



### Reduction trajectory

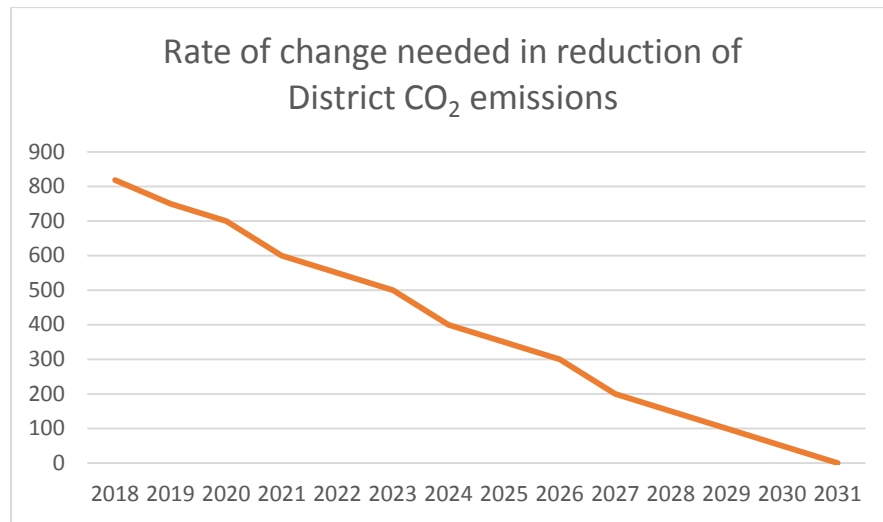
Over the previous 11 years, the district's total emissions (excluding motorways) have reduced by 326.6 kt CO<sub>2</sub> from 929.6kt CO<sub>2</sub> to 603 ktCO<sub>2</sub>, an average reduction of 29.7 ktCO<sub>2</sub>/yr. In order to reach the carbon neutrality target by 2030 the level of reduction over the next ten years now needs to triple to over 60 ktCO<sub>2</sub>/yr (excluding motorways).

Total Winchester district territorial CO<sub>2</sub> emissions estimates 2005-2019 (kt CO<sub>2</sub>)



Applying a simple linear trajectory, the reduction required is 78 ktCO<sub>2</sub>/yr. However, the report's authors state that a reduction of 104 kt CO<sub>2</sub>/year is required to reach net zero emissions by 2030, assuming that non-electricity and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) emissions

remain essentially unchanged up to 2024. In context the reduction between 2018 and 2019 was just under 27kt CO<sub>2</sub>, well below this level.



Actions must be focused on the three top emission commercial electricity, domestic gas and road transport.

**Key message:**

We need a roadmap to inform our trajectory for decarbonising the district.

**Key Policy: City of Winchester Movement Strategy**

The City of Winchester Movement Strategy has been developed in partnership by Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council. It is a joint policy document that sets out an agreed vision and long-term priorities for travel and transport improvements in Winchester over the next 20-30 years. It also covers, at a high level, plans for how these priorities might be met, including indicative timescales and costings.

The proposals include a new park and ride site for the north side of the city, improvements to public spaces and for pedestrians, bus priority measures, high quality cycle routes into and across the city centre and reduced city centre parking.

Residents, commuters and businesses have been consulted on 10 proposed transport and travel schemes that have been developed as part of the Winchester Movement Strategy in an online survey that ran between 6 December 2021 and 11 February 2022.

In addition, study work on potential changes to the one-way system on Friarsgate, improvements for walking and cycling along Worthy Lane and the development of Walking Route 1 as detailed in the City LCWIP have commenced.

### **Key Policy: Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality**

To fill the gaps in knowledge and to provide firm evidence on which to base investment and policies, the council commenced the process to secure external expertise to create a Roadmap of project and investment interventions with the subsequent carbon savings to cover the period March 2022 to December 2030.

The council and local stakeholders have recognised the need to act quickly but this has been married to the realisation of the scale and complexity of what is needed. The roadmap will help to create a clear route for all to follow in order to be successful in reaching our required outcome. It will provide clear and accessible evidence and data to enable partners, stakeholders and residents to understand the transition we all need to make.

The creation of the roadmap will involve external partners in the process; to engage but importantly to agree the interventions and investments. We are expecting it to include:

- Scope - Define a clear purpose for the report and how it should be used and interpreted.
- Opportunities – review existing action plan projects in terms of impact, delivery likelihood and cost; identify and propose alternative interventions with better outcomes.
- Assessment – presentation of project actions as a matrix of carbon saving against cost e.g. nil, some

investment and stretch investment. Or against variables of risk, cost and policy alignment / requirement.

- Projections and trajectories – scale of projects and sensitivity analysis of their implementation to 2030 to set out the nature of task to achieve carbon neutrality.
- Pathways - Modelling of the transitions required including assumptions used to enable future updating.
- Feasibility and research – which projects require additional work before they can be implemented.
- Investment needs and benefits – what is the level of funding (council, government, private) required to achieve the Roadmap.

The outputs will include a quantified trajectory of projects, timed between now and 2024 for the council and 2030 for the district; a public facing and easily understood representation of the roadmap to enable promotion of actions and tracking of progress; tools and methodology to continue to assess and model project options, produce data and update the roadmap annually and training and briefing sessions held for with members, officers and partners.

A contract has been issued to WSP and the work is expected to be completed by the end of September 2022.

### Key Policy: Green Economic Development Strategy

The local economy of Winchester district faces similar global and national challenges to many parts of the country, such as climate change and decarbonisation, post-COVID recovery, digitalisation, and growing inequalities in a rapidly aging society, among others. The Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS) published in 2021, outlines how these can be addressed and make the most of the opportunities for green growth in a way distinctive to Winchester district.

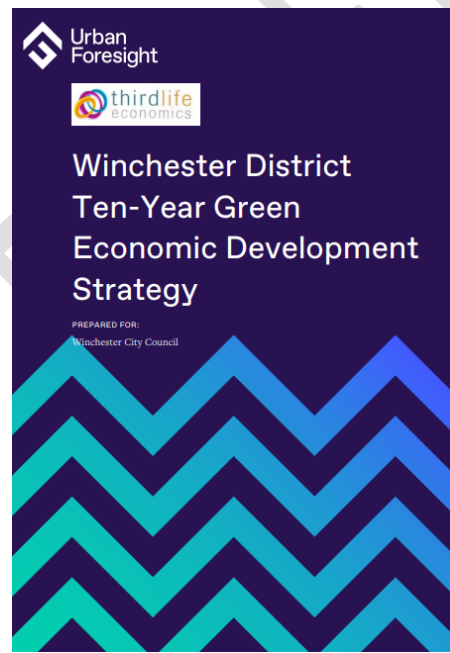
It reflects how Government policy and funding is responding to challenges. The next ten years will see national Government policy driving local authorities and local economies closer to net zero carbon emissions. This transition across the economy will be underpinned by public and private investment in new infrastructure, innovation, growth of new goods and services, and demand for new jobs and skills.

Winchester City Council can influence how much the district benefits from the green growth opportunity.

Winchester City Council will play an important role in enabling public and

private investment in infrastructure, innovation, business, and skills as we invest in developing our green capabilities and ability to sell goods, services, and skills, creating new markets for the district's businesses, new jobs, and economic growth.

Ensuring Winchester district benefits from the green growth opportunity requires cross-council working. This means using levers of planning, procurement, and the capital spending programme to stimulate, encourage, and support green economic development.



### **Key Policy: Local Plan**

Work is progressing on drafting the new Local Plan following an analysis of all of the comments that were received to the consultation on the Strategic Issues and Priorities (SIP) in Spring 2021.

The council recognises that its planning policies – covering what can be built, where and how development connects to the natural environment – all have a major impact on the way that places grow and change, helping to shape the future of the district. The council's aim of achieving carbon neutrality is being carefully considered in relation to developing policies into the new local plan and it will have its own dedicated topic along with a topic on achieving high quality well-designed places and living well which are also key priorities and important components of the city council's journey to net zero carbon. Consultation on the draft Regulation 18 Local Plan will take place later on this year.

The nine key interlocking topic areas which the new Local Plan needs to address are:

1. Carbon neutrality
2. Biodiversity & the natural environment
3. Conserving & enhancing the historic environment
4. Homes for all
5. Creating a vibrant economy
6. Promoting sustainable transport
7. Living well
8. Low carbon infrastructure & local plan viability
9. Delivery & success of the local plan.

## Resources

In the 2021-22 financial year, £215k from the “Transitional Reserve” was spent on the carbon reduction programme. The largest share of this spend (£96,000) was on research and feasibility studies, reflecting work such as the Green Economic Development Strategy (GEDS), study into potential for solar farm on council land and a heat decarbonisation plan for the Guildhall, which was paid for by a grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund.

### Expenditure in 2021/22:

<u>Carbon neutrality transitional reserve:</u>	
Project delivery	£63,000
Feasibility and research	£96,000
Resourcing, communications and engagement	£56,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£215,000</b>
<u>Other projects:</u>	
Vaultex P&R site	£5,662,539
City Offices window replacement	£331,425
Marwell & Biffa Solar PV arrays	£118,388
Electric vehicle charging points	£31,058
Passivhaus scheme at Micheldever	£94,816
Retrofit of council housing stock	£37,824
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£6,276,050</b>

### External funding secured for work

Some costs have been offset by grants and other funding that has been secured to aid delivery of the carbon neutrality programme.

<u>Funding for work completed in 2021/22:</u>	
Vaultex P&R site	£5,650,000
Installation of solar PV panels at Biffa depot and Marwell Zoo	£81,000
Energy efficiency works at City Offices and public conveniences	£252,000
<u>Funding for work to start in 2022/23:</u>	
LoCASE support to businesses	£57,142
Retrofit of 3 council homes	£15,000

When added to the £36,000 secured and spent in previous years, this brings the total external funding brought into the council to support delivery of the carbon neutral programme to £6,089,142.

## Campaigns and Collaboration

The council recognised in the Action Plan that in order to meet the challenge of becoming a carbon neutral authority and district we would have to work together and act collectively. Campaigns and collaboration would need to form an integral part of the delivery approach and much has been achieved over the past year to bring people together.

WCC meets regularly with Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) in addition to funding the Winchester Sustainable Business Network which has continued to meet regularly throughout the Pandemic. Here are some other examples of our collaborative working from 2021:

### CASE STUDY: WeCAN: Winchester Climate Action Network

In March 2021, the council commissioned the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and Winchester Action on the Climate Crisis (WinACC) to deliver the WeCAN (Winchester Climate Action Network) project.

The aim of the project was to build a network of parish councils and local communities taking action on the climate crisis across Winchester district. Parish Councils were provided with a bespoke parish carbon footprint report to help guide climate action and offered the opportunity to take part in 4 activities, namely

- A survey of parish and community groups about the extent to which they are engaged in climate reduction activities;
- Two action planning workshops;
- A webinar on how to interpret and act on the parish carbon footprint reports; and
- Communications support in speaking to their local communities about climate change.

A carbon footprint report was produced for each civil parish and urban ward to help guide climate action. This data was shown on a territorial and consumption basis. These reports were sent to each parish council, parish and ward councillors, and each community-based organisation/group that responded to the survey.

It was heartening to find that a majority of parish councils in Winchester district are already taking climate action or would like to act in the future.

- 69% (33/48) of parish councils engaged in one or more project activities; of the 28 parish councils who responded to the project survey, 22 said they were already taking climate action or would like to act in the future.
- 8% (4/48) of parish councils participated in all 4 activity areas.
- 25% (12/48) of parish councils did not engage in any of the project activities.

The project is continuing in in 2022 with additional funding from the SDNPA and Winchester Rotary.

Winchester City Council's Carbon Neutral Programme  
Review April 2021 to March 2022 and Action Plan 2022/23

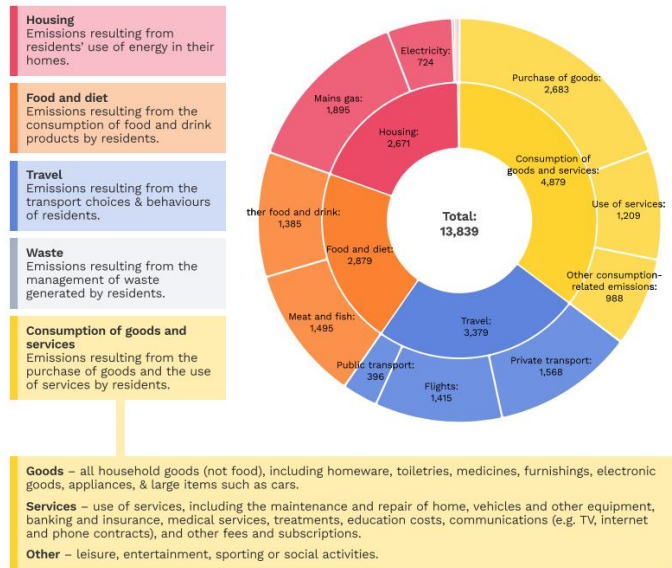


Figure: An extract from Otterbourne Parish Council's Carbon Impact Report.

### Winchester Green Week 2021

Winchester City Council again supported Winchester Green Week in 2021, which was held between 25 September and 3 October. This week of action highlights the growing movement in the Winchester district towards sustainable ways of living. This was the fourth Winchester Green Week and was organised by a steering group of volunteers many of whom are active in green groups across the district, including WinACC.

The theme for 2021 was 'Together for our Planet' as the country looked towards the COP26 UN Climate Summit in Glasgow. Many events were held online, with the Green Week website and programme being hosted on the WinACC website. A Winchester Green Week YouTube channel featured for the first time this year.

'In person' events included a low carbon lunch, a seed give-away from White Stuff and litter pick organised by the Earthian zero waste shop plus an 'Imagine the World You Want' consultation event held over two days at the Winchester Discovery Centre. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, events were provided by over 30 organisations, across all sectors of society - community groups, faith groups, local authorities, businesses, charities and schools

Winchester City Council helped to facilitate a number of events, including holding its first Carbon Neutrality Open Forum consultation during the week. This was an online event

with two speakers and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency.



### Local Climate Engagement (LCE) Training

The council successfully applied for a place on the Local Climate Engagement (LCE) Programme, to improve the way we engage and communicate with stakeholders across the



district. This is a national programme run in partnership by 5 charities: Involve; UK100; the Democratic Society; Shared Future CIC and Climate Outreach - all amongst the UK's leading organisations in the fields of local government, public participation in climate decision-making, climate research, and climate communications and advocacy.

Out of 75 applicants, WCC was one of only 15 councils who secured a place. A number of council officers that are central to the climate emergency work will be attending a 3 day coaching programme during summer 2022 to develop their engagement skills.

Research produced for the national Climate Change Committee shows that one-third of all UK emissions are dependent on sectors influenced by local government policies or partnerships. Coaching Group members will explore the practical considerations and pitfalls of public participation in decision-making including: available methods; their use, pros, cons, cost and time implications; the importance of building clear briefs and the link back to decision-making.

### **CASE STUDY: Winchester District Young People's Climate Assembly**

In November 2021, shortly after COP26, Winchester held its first Climate Assembly in the form of the Winchester District Young People's Climate Assembly.

The purpose was to give voice to young people across the district – from Micheldever to Denmead, Winchester to Whiteley, Alresford to Hursley – on what can be done to

accelerate a fair transition to net zero carbon here in Winchester.

Over 40 young people aged between 16-30 gathered to hear invited speakers including Sustrans and Winchester Food Partnership share their ideas on the actions that can be taken locally.

The event used a process called deliberative democracy. The young people discussed these proposals and reached consensus on the priorities for our area, supported by recommendations on the actions that need to be taken.

The findings of the assembly were shared with decision makers at Winchester City Council and Hampshire County Council as they develop their responses to the challenge of accelerating climate action following from COP26.

The event was supported by Winchester's Mayor and sponsored by the University of Winchester with significant input from WinACC. It was co-convened by former Winchester Cllr Anne Weir, and Stuart Evans, Chair of the University's Sustainability Society.

**Project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation**

The carbon neutrality programme incorporates a number of different decarbonisation projects being managed across the council to maximise and capture carbon savings contributing to our carbon reduction targets.

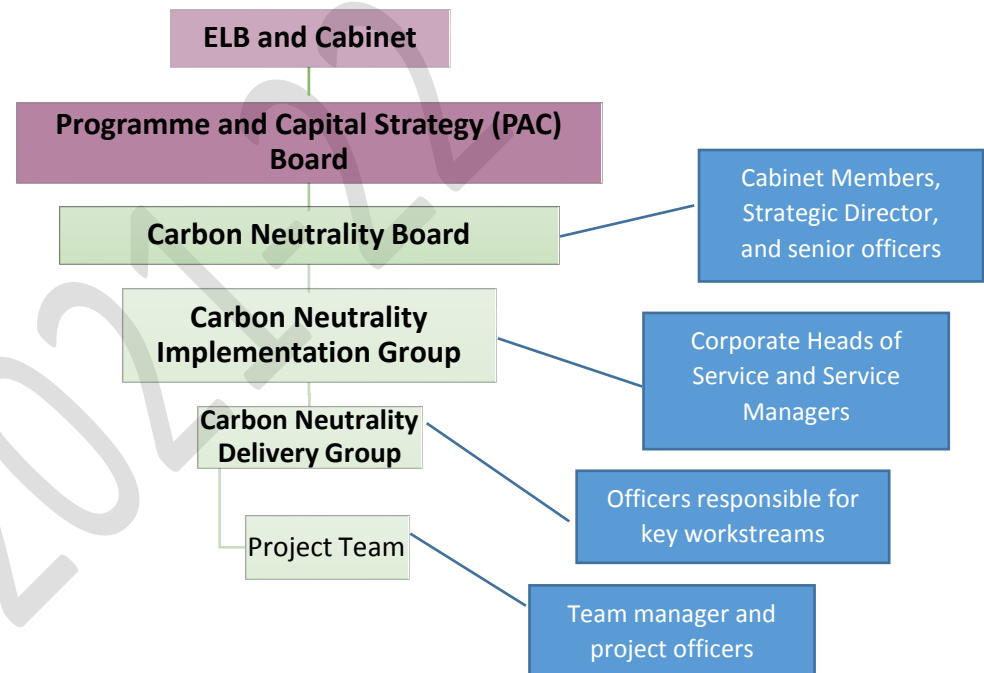
**Governance**

The council has set up governance arrangements to ensure the projects and work undertaken to deliver carbon saving initiatives are reported, reviewed and kept on track. These groups use existing council reporting process so as not to duplicate and to embed and mainstream the carbon neutrality agenda with all the council's work.

Quarterly highlight reports are submitted to and scrutinised by the PAC (Programme and Capital) Board, which aligns with the quarterly finance and performance reports.

The Carbon Neutrality Board meets monthly and comprises the Cabinet Members responsible for Housing, Transport and the Climate Emergency as well as senior council officers. It is chaired by the Strategic Director. Through this, the implementation, delivery and steering groups, employees and stakeholders are updated about progress and consulted on emerging plans.

The Carbon Neutrality Delivery Group meets monthly and comprises officers within the council responsible for delivering key work streams within the carbon neutrality action plan.



Over the past year the team has also been reporting to each meeting of the Health and Environment Policy Committee on the progress of the Action Plan delivery and to showcase projects. Reports were as follows:

- March 2022
  - o HEP021 Carbon Offsetting
  - o HEP023 Housing and Property policies & actions
- January 2022
  - o HEP016 Energy policies/actions
- September 2021
  - o HEP015 Vision for a Decarbonised Winchester
  - o HEP014 Transport policies/actions
- July 2021
  - o HEP013 Carbon Neutrality Plan Annual Report and Action Plan

This group can act as leaders, setting an example for others to follow and encouraging commitment to, and a clear path towards, carbon neutrality.

### Steering Group

This comprises a group of influential stakeholders that meets to provide a shared focus on achieving carbon neutrality across the district. The group includes representatives of local government, business, environmental groups, the education sector and utility companies.

### Key support staff:

The CNAP delivery team is overseen by the Corporate Head – Economies and Communities, led by the Service Lead for Communities and comprises a full time Sustainability Officer and Programme Manager (Climate and Community), with support from the Campaigns Manager in the Communications team.

### Climate Emergency Open Forum

On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021, as part of Winchester Green Week, the council held its first Climate Emergency Open Forum.

The purpose of the Climate Emergency Open Forum is to facilitate open discussion on specific climate-related issues, share council information and gain feedback from the public with a particular focus on understanding what needs to be done to achieve a carbon neutral Winchester district by 2030.

The panel for the first meeting comprised representatives from Winchester City Council, the University of Winchester, and Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC). The Chair of the forum, the late Cllr Lynda Murphy (Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency), introduced the session and highlighted the importance of taking urgent climate action across the district. Cllr Murphy's introduction was then followed by presentations from the 3 panelists:

Susan Robbins (WCC) – presented information about the latest annual update to the Carbon Neutrality Action Plan and the Green Economic Development Strategy

Chris Holloway (WinACC) – presented results from the latest draft 'Greenhouse gas emissions in the Winchester district' report and suggested areas where the greatest impact on carbon reduction can be made across the district.

Mat Jane (UoW) - presented information about the university's carbon footprint and the various carbon reduction initiatives it is implementing in order to achieve its net zero target by at least 2030.

After the presentations, the session opened up to a Q&A, where attendees could ask questions to the panel. In total, just under 40 people attended the first Open Forum and 20 unique questions were submitted to the panel.



## Staff involvement

### **CASE STUDY: Carbon Literacy Training**

Summary: In early September 2020, WCC received approval from the Carbon Literacy Project (CLP) to run its own Carbon Literacy training course. Following approval, WCC became one of the first local authorities to pilot the Local Authorities Staff Course. In February 2021, WCC was certified as a Bronze Carbon Literate Organisation (CLO), at the time one of only 11 councils in the UK to achieve this status. As a result, WCC was invited to present a case study at the COP26 UN Climate Summit virtual local authorities sector day.



Aims: To fulfil the CNAP requirement to 'introduce a corporate staff training module on sustainability and reducing energy usage';

To ensure that all staff understand their role in helping the council meet its net-zero targets both at work and at home.

#### Outcomes:

To date, we have trained 136 people in total and are on target to achieve CLO Silver status by the end of 2022. 46 Staff and 1 Councillor have succeeded in becoming CL accredited and further support is being focused in 2022 on helping those already trained gaining CL accreditation.

- Number of people trained: 136
  - Officers: 113

- Elected members: 15
- Externals: 8
- Number of current staff CL Accredited
  - Officers: 46
  - Elected Members: 1

The Green Team formed in January 2020 from a small group of officers from various teams within the council with an aim to support the council's climate emergency programme through encouraging sustainable practice within the council

- 80% of the Green team have undertaken "Carbon Literacy" training and are now certified as Carbon Literate. Some members of the Green Team are working with the Carbon Neutrality group to roll out Carbon Literacy to the wider council, with the aim of securing a Silver award accreditation for the Council.
- City Voice, our staff newsletter, is published every two weeks. It frequently features information on sustainability issues, raising awareness and increasing knowledge of sustainable issues.
- Supporting the council's composting initiative within the office, with staff collecting food waste from kitchens and composting in Abbey Gardens. PPE is collected and recycled and other office initiatives are being considered, for example terra-cycling.

The Green Team has launched a monthly publication called 'Green Wall' which features book reviews, spotlights local sustainability businesses and steps staff can take to raise awareness of all things sustainable. It provides helpful ways in which we can all make greener lifestyle choices.

**Top Priority Actions for 2022/23**

Council Priorities 2022/23	District Priorities 2022/23
<p><u>Transport</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a trial of electric buses for the park &amp; ride service, ahead of tender renewal in 2023</li> <li>2. Undertake a trial of electric vehicles for waste and recycling</li> <li>3. Work with Hampshire County Council on a Winchester District Bus Improvement plan – to include moving to zero carbon buses</li> <li>4. Ensure employee commuting remains at reduced carbon emission levels</li> </ol> <p><u>Commercial Energy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Complete energy saving measures at City Offices</li> </ol> <p><u>Domestic Energy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Identify and implement measures to reduce emissions at Chesil Lodge</li> </ol> <p><u>Natural Environment / LULUCF*</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Approve the council's mitigation / off setting policy.</li> <li>8. Develop a viable business case for investment in energy generation on council land.</li> </ol>	<p><u>Transport</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Consult on emissions-based car parking charges</li> <li>10. Support expansion of zero/low emission delivery services</li> <li>11. Work with Hampshire County Council to commission a Local Cycling and Walking plan (LCWIP) for the district</li> <li>12. Develop a viable business case for phase 2 of the electric vehicle charging point (EVCP) programme and submit a bid to the LEVI fund</li> </ol> <p><u>Commercial Energy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Support businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and access grant funding from LoCASE.</li> </ol> <p><u>Domestic Energy</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>14. Commence work on a pilot high standard green energy development scheme at Micheldever to test and deploy green design and technologies</li> <li>15. Spend £1.5m on retro-fitting housing stock</li> <li>16. Progress the new Local Plan to ensure the future delivery of sustainable housing and reduce energy consumption beyond that currently required under Policy CP11</li> </ol> <p><u>Natural Environment / LULUCF</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. Develop the council's approach to biodiversity net gain.</li> </ol>

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